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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

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Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director
Brenda Salter, Assistant Director
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Shauna Benvegna-Springer, Utility Technical Consultant
Annette Orton, Utility Analyst

Date: June 13, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 23-054-T01**, Union Telephone Company, Inc.'s Tariff Revisions to the 8YY Access Charges Rates

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) has reviewed the tariff filing and recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) approve Union Telephone Company, Inc.'s (Company) request to revise its tariff sheets as summarized in its cover letter. The Division, therefore, recommends that the tariff changes become effective on July 1, 2023.

Issue

On May 30, 2023, the Company submitted to the Commission Docket No. 23-054-T01 Proposed Tariff Revisions. The filing included a cover letter summarizing the changes on each page, rate, and rule, including revised tariff sheets and a redlined tariff. The proposed tariff changes adjust the tariff rates as required in the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform, Report and Order FCC 20-143, WC Docket No. 18-156, released and adopted October 9, 2020,¹ and erratum released October 30, 2020. The second erratum order was released

¹ Federal Communications Commission, 8YY Access Charge Reform, Order 20-143, WC Docket No. 18-156, adopted October 9, 2020. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-143A1.pdf>

and adopted on November 27, 2020.² The Commission issued an Action Request to the Division on May 30, 2023, to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission by June 13, 2023. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Background

The FCC adopted an order in October 2020 to modernize toll-free (8YY) calling rules. The order steps down 8YY originating access charges to a bill-and-keep system over a transition period beginning July 1, 2022, and ending July 1, 2023. Originating 8YY transport and tandem switching fees were combined to a single transport services rate capped at \$0.001 per minute, effective July 1, 2022. Charges for 8YY database queries will also be transitioned to \$0.0002 over the three-year transition period. Additionally, the order combines separate 8YY transport and tandem switching charges into a single access charge. The Company submitted the previous rate change to comply with the interstate rule order.

Discussion

The Division reviewed the redlined version of the tariff sheets submitted with the Company's filing. The proposed rates for terminating access have been adjusted according to the announced rate order. The step-down reduction plan has changed the toll-free access and query rates and appears to comply with the FCC's 8YY Reform Order. No other rates were affected by the order, and no further rate changes were proposed.

The Division reviewed and analyzed the impact on the revenue because of the rate changes. The switched expected access carrier line rate for Union Telephone Company, Inc. decreased to \$0.00. The toll-free database access basic rate per query and the toll-free database access vertical features rate per query were reduced to \$0.0002. The overall revenue impact was nearly zero.

² Federal Communications Commission, 8YY Access Charge Reform, Order 20-143, WC Docket No. 18-156, adopted November 27, 2020. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-143A1.pdf>

Conclusion

The Division has reviewed Union Telephone Company, Inc.'s filing and has no objections to the proposed revisions. Therefore, the Division recommends that the Commission approve this filing as submitted, effective July 1, 2023, as requested.

cc: Bruce S Asay, PC ALG Law
Brian Woody, Union Telephone Company, Inc.